



February 25, 2013

The Honorable Conrad Lee and
Members of the Bellevue City Council
450 110th Ave. NE, P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Mayor Lee and Council Members,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the City Council and staff's hard work over the last few months on the light rail land use overlay. During the February 19, 2013 Council meeting we raised concerns about the overlay related to who may apply, landscape setbacks and structure separation. At the same meeting, the City Council requested that Sound Transit work with your staff to address and resolve our concerns.

I have also heard the community and the Council's clear and consistent interest in accelerating the residential property acquisition required for the project. To address this concern, I commit that within 60 days of the City Council and Sound Transit's approval of the final MOU project description, I will forward a resolution to the Sound Transit Board requesting authorization of early acquisition of residential property for the East Link project. With Board approval, staff will commence the formal acquisition process which begins with appraisals. I certainly understand property owners' trepidations about going through such a process, and I commit that Sound Transit staff and consultants will work in earnest, fairly and expeditiously, with all property owners throughout the acquisition process.

With regard to the Who May Apply language, Sound Transit believes the Alternative Approach described in Attachment C, along with my commitment to accelerate acquisitions, will achieve the City Council's desired outcome without the unintended consequence of delay to the East Link project.

I also support the City Council's interest in a well-landscaped corridor in south Bellevue. The Alternative Approaches described in Attachments E & G achieve the Councils vision and as stated "provide some flexibility for property owners who choose to remain near alignment".

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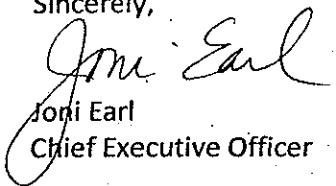
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Completing the code amendments at your February 25, 2013 meeting will provide the predictability and certainty that the community, Sound Transit, and the Council all want. Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,



Joni Earl
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Pat McCarthy, Board Chair
Fred Butler, Capital Committee Chair
Steve Sarkozy, Bellevue City Manager